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Commission for Social Development

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Ms. Larysa Belskaya (Belarus), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 67/139 of 20 December 2012, 67/143 of 20 December 2012 and previous Assembly resolutions on ageing, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 21/23 of 28 September 2012,

Recalling further that, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, it invited Member States, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, the Commission for Social Development decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Noting that the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will take place in 2017,

Taking note of the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182,

Recalling that, in its resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010, it decided that the procedure for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action would follow the set procedure of the first review and appraisal exercise, also decided to conduct the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, and endorsed the theme "Full implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: social situation, well-being and dignity, development and the full realization of all human rights for older persons" for the second review and appraisal exercise,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002",[2]

Recognizing the steps taken in this area by Member States, as well as relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, and expressing concern about the lack of progress towards achieving the goals agreed at the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Recognizing also the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all measures concerning older persons in order to take into account the needs and experiences of older women and men,

1. *Recognizes* the successful conclusion of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] and its results at the international, regional and national levels, and also recognizes that major challenges faced by older persons that undermine their social, economic and cultural participation remain, inter alia, age discrimination, abuse and violence, and access to age-appropriate health-care services, social protection measures and labour markets;

2. *Expresses concern* that ageing has not always received adequate attention and that older persons often remain confronted by poverty and social exclusion;

3. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream ageing into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to promote social integration and the prevention and elimination of age discrimination, including by highlighting a gender perspective;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to promote the understanding of ageing as an issue of concern to society as a whole, through education at all levels, in order to combat negative stereotypes and discrimination against older persons;

[2] E/CN.5/2012/5.

5. *Further encourages* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches, such as empowerment and participation, gender equality, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators;

6. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen efforts to develop their national capacity to set priorities and address the national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal exercise, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons in natural disasters and emergencies, including through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures to promote and protect the rights of older persons and measures aimed at providing economic and social security and health care, while considering the Madrid Plan of Action and mainstreaming a gender perspective, the full participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives, and ageing with dignity;

8. *Encourages* Member States to support the national and international research community in developing studies on the impact of the Madrid Plan of Action on older persons and national social policies;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to address the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, and recognizes that the incidence and impacts of non-communicable diseases can be largely prevented or reduced with an approach that incorporates evidence-based, affordable, cost-effective, population-wide and multisectoral interventions;

10. *Invites* Member States to set time-bound benchmarks for action at the national level based on the shortcomings and priorities identified at the national and regional levels of review and appraisal, in order to enhance implementation;

11. *Also invites* Member States to establish and/or strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and organizations of older persons in order to improve their national capacity for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the area of ageing;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to participate effectively in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action through, inter alia, improving data collection and sharing ideas, information and good practices;

13. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level guided by each country's needs in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Member States to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in order to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

14. *Invites* Member States as well as all other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

15. *Acknowledges* the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents, and calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the United Nations regional commissions, including their focal points on ageing, to enable them to continue their regional implementation activities;

16. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council functional commissions, within their mandates, to consider mainstreaming ageing issues, including by taking up ageing as an emerging issue in their programmes of work, as appropriate, bearing in mind the importance of improving United Nations coordination and strengthening capacity-building, where needed, in order to improve the situation of older persons;

17. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities that can contribute to advancing the situation of older persons to, within their respective mandates, give greater priority to addressing the needs and concerns of older persons, while maximizing synergies;

18. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, including to build capacity on ageing through stronger partnerships with civil society, such as organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations and community- and faith-based organizations, and with the private sector;

19. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts and to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical, and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

20. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons be taken into account in the ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and considered in the discussions on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the outcomes of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in particular the relationship between development, social policy and the human rights of older persons to, inter alia, better inform the future work of relevant United Nations entities and bodies, including the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-second session, in 2014, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.